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ABSTRACT

A summer program developed at a residential center for emotionally disturbed adolescents concentrates on exploratory, special interest, and enrichment areas while maintaining the regular school year focus on functional living skills. Also incorporated in the program is stress on group interactions and group communication to foster self-discipline. Students select from among courses on law and justice, French, journalism, drug use, camping, gardening, physical education, driver's education, creative writing, consumerism, basic living skills, career awareness, general health, drama, art, and math and computers. (CL)

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A DESCRIPTION OF AN INNOVATIVE ALTERNATIVE SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED ADOLESCENTS IN A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER

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Special School District #1 (SSD #1) is an intermediate educational agency established in Louisiana in 1927. It was included in the statutory act which was intended to bring state law into line with Public Law 94-142. SSD #1 serves the educational needs of all students in public residential treatment programs. While there are some exceptions, the constituents of SSD #1 include students in juvenile correction institutions, facilities for the mentally retarded and for the emotionally disturbed. The goal of SSD #1 is to provide special education and related services to identified handicapped individuals, ages 3 through 21, residing in public residential facilities.

Greenwell Springs Hospital, a component of SSD #1, is a residential facility for emotionally disturbed adolescents. It is located near the city of Baton Rouge, the state capital and a large metropolitan area. The educational services are one component of the total service delivery system. SSD #1 enhances the role of that educational component.

The following statements reflect the principles of Special School District #1 and the faculty at Greenwell Springs Hospital.

I. We believe in:
   a. the principle of normalization;
   b. the basic right to a free and appropriate education;
   c. the personal dignity of the individual; and
   d. the opportunity for independent, functional living based on each individual's capabilities.

II. We believe that each individual is entitled to:
   a. an appropriate diagnostic/prescriptive assessment;
   b. an equal access to qualified educational personnel;
   c. a continuing programming for functional living within the least restrictive environment;
   d. a program that will assist each individual to achieve vocational, leisure, social and independent living skills in keeping with his/her individual's needs; and
   e. services enabling each individual to maximize his or her potential.

Putting the aforementioned principles into practice is accomplished through planned learning activities. These activities constitute the curriculum which falls into three interrelated comprehensive areas: (1) general education (also referred to as common learnings, unified studies, or core); (2) exploratory,

EC 162475

special interest, and enrichment education (electives that are independent of any specialized curricular pattern); and (3) specialized education (pre-vocational and vocational studies).

During the regular school year emphasis is placed on general education. A full complement of both remedial and traditional high school courses are offered. Students are enrolled in a program granting Carnegie Units to be applied toward a high school diploma. Along with this traditional core, a full complement of remedial courses are offered: remedial math, reading and language arts. Pre-vocational and vocational studies are offered through Vocational Rehabilitation Program with functional living classes added through the school.

Since the treatment plan for the exceptional students at Greenwell Springs Hospital requires a 12-month educational program, the school developed an alternative program for the summer to help students reach their academic, social, emotional, and physical potential. The summer program concentrates on the exploratory, special interests, and enrichment areas while still providing functional living classes. Approximately 80 behavior disordered and emotionally disturbed adolescents ranging in age from eleven to seventeen participated in this program.

The faculty established through library research that self discipline is an essential goal of any curriculum. In order to facilitate student self discipline, a living curriculum based on functional skills and communication is needed.

This curriculum could be easily integrated into our yearly programming as a summer school alternative that emphasized group interactions and group communication to foster not only self discipline but functional and practical living skills. Summer courses are not credit so that pressure to academically perform is lessened.

The following is a list of the courses available at Greenwell Springs Hospital School during the summer. The students make selections from this list.

Law and Justice: How Does Our Legal System Really Work?

In the class you will become aware of personal responsibilities and legal rights while studying the operation of the justice system. Various aspects of law enforcement including problems faced by policemen of the sequence involved from arrest to final court judgment are explored. Enrichment activities include guest speakers, films, and field trips.

French

Laissez le bon temps roulet! (Let the good times roll!) In this class you will learn selected French vocabulary such as objects in the classroom, days of the week, colors, numbers, and

names of family members. A field trip will be planned to explore our French heritage (Downtown Museums).

Journalism: The School Newspaper

In this class you will write and publish the Greenwell Springs School Newspaper. The paper will include interviews of teachers, students, and hospital staff, an advice column, jokes, poems, such as layouts, typing, interviewing and printing. A field trip to the Morning Advocate will be included.

Drug Use: Legal and Illegal

In this class you will learn unbiased factual information about drug use. How prescription and non-prescription drugs affect you physically and mentally. The Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Unit will be discussed. Enrichment activities include guest speakers and films.

Let's Go Camping

In this class you will explore the aspects of camping. This will include learning different types of plants, what to use when going camping, and assembling equipment. Films will be shown and the outdoors will be explored. A possible camping trip will be scheduled.

Gardening

In this class you will learn to grow houseplants and produce a garden. Plant identification, transplanting and rooting plants, proper ways to grow plants, and useful and non-useful insects will also be studied. Come and garden with us and take a house plant back to your room.

Physical Education

Have a relaxing summer - Come join our class and enjoy a summer full of tennis, volleyball, and recreational games (pool, ping pong, cards, etc.)

Driver's Education: Classroom Phase

In this class, you will learn how traffic laws and signs add to the legal and moral responsibility of the driver. Also, the techniques for coping with bad weather, emotions, and fatigue will be stressed. You must be 15 years of age.

Creative Writing

In this class, the development of creative writing skills will be explored. The exploration of your emotions and your five senses will help you write creatively. You will learn to write poetry, short stories and other forms of fiction in a workshop atmosphere.

Consumerism

In this class you will study buying skills such as buying a car, food shopping, buying clothes, catalogue and telephone shopping. Field trips will be scheduled to a grocery store, a department store and the Dollar General Store.

Living Skills: Getting By Day-To-Day

In this class basic living skills such as telephone skills, taxes, health (including seeing a doctor, counting calories, and dental hygiene) handling emergency situations, and becoming aware of what resources are available to you in your community. Use of the library will be stressed.

Career Awareness: What Do You Want To Be?

In this class you will explore various career opportunities. You will learn the basic skills for finding a job, pre-vocational skills, The jobs at Greenwell Springs Hospital will be studied and speakers from the different areas will be brought in to talk about their area of work.

You and Your Health: Everything You Wanted to Know About Yourself But Were Afraid To Ask

In this class, general health will be taught. This will include the body functions, smoking, reproductive system, filling out applications and health records, and first aid. Projections into the future, role playing and "truth and fable" games will be played to examine these subjects.

Drama - So You Want To Be A Star!

This class will produce a play "A Toby Show" which will be performed for the school and hospital staff. The students chosen for the character roles will learn the fundamentals of acting. The students chosen for the crew will reproduce the costumes, construct the lighting, properties and special effects.

Art

In this class, the props for "A Toby Show" will be designed, constructed, and painted. The basic stitches and techniques of embroidery will be taught. You will also have an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of commercial art.

Math and Computers

In the class you will review basic operations with numbers/ using a pocket calculator, run programs on a computer to increase arithmetic, spelling, and manual dexterity skills. Using BASIC language, you will be able to write a short program for the computer.

Paper presented at the Conference on Provision of Services to the Severely Emotionally Disturbed and Autistic (Memphis, TN, April 27-28, 1983)